ATLAS™ COMICS
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JULY
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WEIRD SUSPENSE
The Tarantula
NIGHT OF THE LIVING GARGOYLE!
DEATH STALKS THE TARANTULA WITH WINGS OF STONE
THAT CREATURE -- IT'S RIPPING THE TARANTULA APART!
R. BUCKLER

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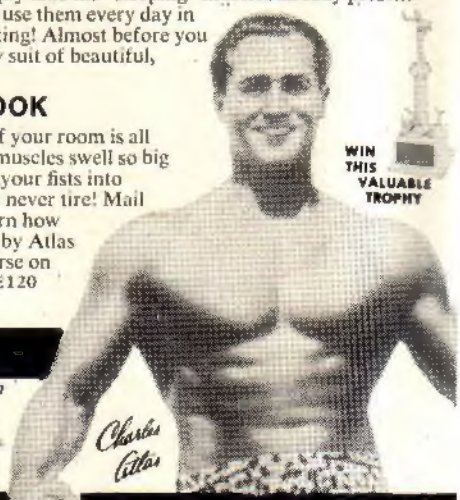

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POWERFUL LEGS?

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BIG ARM MUSCLES?

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... AN EXPERIMENT A BRILLIANT BUT DESPERATE YOUNG ARAB STUDENT HOPES WILL PROVE HIS THEORY THAT....

MIND MATTER = MURDER!

LARRY LIEBER, EDITOR | GARY FRIEDRICH, SCRIPTER | PAT BOYETTE, ARTIST

WEIRD SUSPENSE Volume 1, Number 3, June 1975 is published bi-monthly by Atlas Comics. Executive offices and office of publication 717 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N.Y. 10022. Subscriptions in U.S., Canada and possessions $1.50 for six issues. Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices. © Copyright 1975 Seaboard Periodicals, Inc. All rights reserved. WEIRD SUSPENSE is a trademark of Atlas Comics, a division of Seaboard Periodicals, Inc.

AH, BUT WHO MOURNS.. OR EVEN NOTICES THE BRUTAL MURDER OF A SKID-ROW DRUNK? AS A RULE, NO ONE... NO ONE SAVE A CERTAIN COUNT LYCOSA AS HE READS HIS MORNING PAPER!
STILL ANOTHER KILLING! I WONDER IF...
CRISPIN!
TIMES
MURDER

YOU CALLED, SIR?
WHO ELSE WOULD HAVE CALLED IN THIS GOD FORSAKEN SELF-IMPOSED PRISON!
OF COURSE I CALLED! THERE'S NO ONE HERE BUT THE TWO OF US! HAVE YOU SEEN THE PAPER?

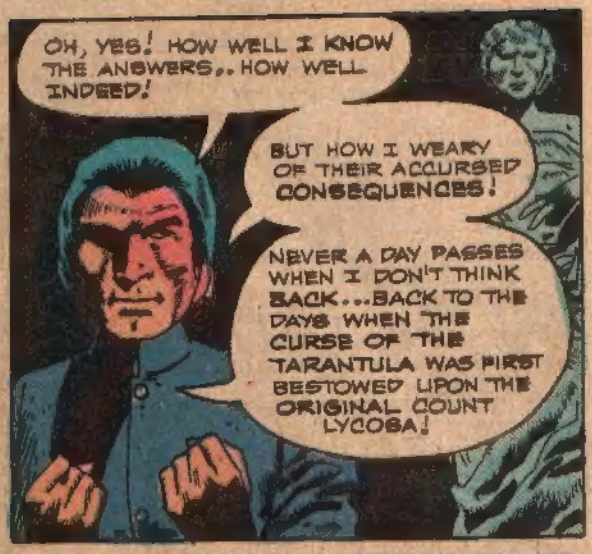
NO, SIR, BUT I'LL BE GLAD TO...
IT DOESN'T MATTER! I'VE DONE IT AGAIN! LOOK AT THE SMALL ITEM...
THE ONE ABOUT THAT POOR OLD MAN!

I SEE, SIR ... BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU...
YOU CAN ASSURE ME OF WHAT... THAT THE TARANTULA HAS KILLED AGAIN...
..MURDERED YET ANOTHER INNOCENT VICTIM? YES, I'M CERTAIN YOU CAN!

BUT YOU'RE WRONG, SIR! THIS TIME IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN YOU!
YOU WERE IN ALL NIGHT! JUST AS MY DEAR DEPARTED BROTHER, JOSEPH, DID SO MANY TIMES ..I STAYED UP AND KEPT WATCH OVER YOUR BED!

I DID NOT DOSE ..EVEN FOR A SECOND.. NO, SIR ..IT WASN'T YOU!
THANK GOD! WHEN I READ THE STORY..I COULD'VE SWORN I'D BECOME THE TARANTULA ONCE MORE!

WHY, CRISPIN? WHY MUST I BEAR ...THIS MONSTROUS BURDEN?
YOU KNOW THE ANSWERS, SIR ..AND I FEAR I HAVE NO SOLUTIONS!
WHY DID I HAVE TO BE BORN COUNT EUGENE LYCOSA XI? INDEED, WHY WAS I BORN AT ALL?


OH, YES! HOW WELL I KNOW THE ANSWERS.. HOW WELL INDEED!
BUT HOW I WEARY OF THEIR ACCURSED CONSEQUENCES!
NEVER A DAY PASSES WHEN I DON'T THINK BACK...BACK TO THE DAYS WHEN THE CURSE OF THE TARANTULA WAS FIRST BESTOWED UPON THE ORIGINAL COUNT LYCOSA!

HOW WELL I REMEMBER THE STORY PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION..
.. THAT OF THE MYSTERIOUS SPIDER PRINCESS WHO LED HER BAND OF MURDEROUS CREATURES AGAINST HELPLESS VILLAGERS BACK IN THE MIDDLE AGES!*
*AS RECOUNTED IN THE TARANTULA #1 - EDITOR.

MY ANCESTOR RISKED HIS LIFE TO LEAD HIS FELLOW MEN IN A DESPERATE ATTACK AGAINST THE MONSTERS IN AN ATTEMPT TO WIPE THEM OUT...
.. LITTLE REALIZING THE DIRE CONSEQUENCES HIS HEROISM WOULD WREAK UPON NOT ONLY HIMSELF, BUT ALL HIS MALE DESCENDANTS!

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9 BULLET HOLES

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In the time it takes to complete this 12 lesson course, we can guarantee you a muscular foundation fantastic enough to be developed to your fullest potential!!! You can go far beyond mere "improvement" with the Advanced Training Techniques included in this course. We can give you the firm, rippling, muscular body of a physique star!!! Send in for our FREE COLORFUL BROCHURES TODAY (fantastic information about our course — loaded with unbelievable photographs). You won't regret it!!!

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Name_____ Age____

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MAIL TODAY!

NO, ONLY WHEN IT WAS TOO LATE DID HE DISCOVER WHAT HE HAD DONE...
YOU HELPED US DESTROY THEM, COUNT! SO IT IS ONLY BEFITTING THAT YOU LIGHT THE FIRE WHICH WILL BURN THE WITCH WHO LED THE CURSED MONSTERS!
I AM HONORED.. AND I WILL ACCOMODATE YOUR WISHES..THOUGH I DID NO MORE AND DISPLAYED NO MORE COURAGE THAN YOU!

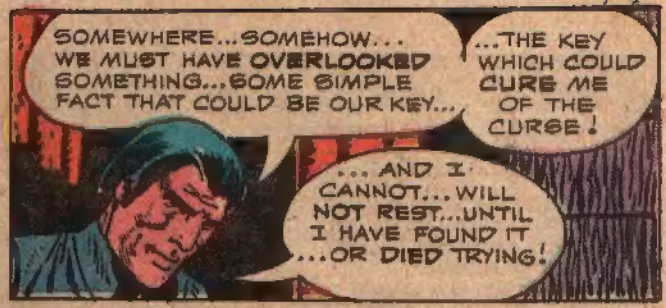
A CURSE ON YOU, COUNT LYCOSA.. AND ON THE FIRST BORN MALE OF ALL YOUR DESCENDANTS!
YOUR HANDS AND THEIRS WILL BE COVERED WITH BLOOD FROM THIS DAY FORWARD....
..AND IN THE WRETCHED END EACH OF YOU SHALL DIE BY HIS OWN HAND..
..JUST AS I NOW DIE BY YOURS!

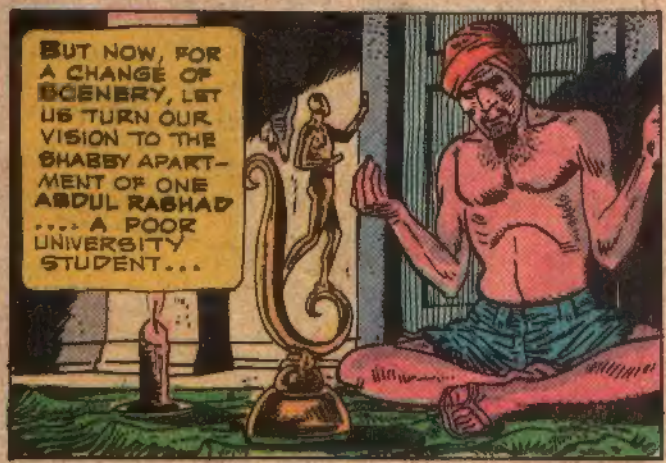
TODAY, THESE HUNDREDS OF YEARS LATER..I AM CURIOUS AS TO WHAT MY ANCESTOR THOUGHT AS HE WATCHED HER DIE...
...IF HE CONSIDERED THERE MIGHT BE VALIDITY TO HER CURSE!

OR IF HE FORGOT THE CURSE, MERELY PUT IT OUT OF HIS MIND FOR A PERIOD OF TIME...

UNTIL THE FATEFUL DAY IT FINALLY WAS FULFILLED....
...THE DAY HE FIRST FOUND HIMSELF TRANSFORMED INTO ...THE TARANTULA!

IF YOU'LL PARDON ME, SIR... WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS HUNDREDS OF TIMES...
...AND THE CONCLUSION IS ALWAYS THE SAME.. THAT THERE IS NO CONCLUSION AT ALL!
I KNOW, CRISPIN ...I KNOW. BUT I MUST KEEP HOPING! PLEASE UNDERSTAND...I MUST!


SOMEWHERE...SOMEHOW... WE MUST HAVE OVERLOOKED SOMETHING...SOME SIMPLE FACT THAT COULD BE OUR KEY...
...THE KEY WHICH COULD CURE ME OF THE CURSE!
... AND I CANNOT... WILL NOT REST...UNTIL I HAVE FOUND IT ...OR DIED TRYING!


BUT NOW, FOR A CHANGE OF SCENERY, LET US TURN OUR VISION TO THE SHABBY APARTMENT OF ONE ABDUL RASHAD .... A POOR UNIVERSITY STUDENT...

ARISE...LET THE POWER OF MY MIND ENTER YOU...AND LET IT GIVE LIFE! FOR THE SECRET TO ALL LIFE LIES NOT WITHIN THE BODY...BUT WITHIN THE MIND...
AND I NOW TRANSFER THAT POWER FROM MY BRAIN INTO YOU!

TAKE...ACCEPT...ALL THAT I WILL TO YOU! THE POWER OF LIFE IS YOURS FOR THE GRASPING!
CAN YOU NOT FEEL IT...THE POWER OF MY MIND PULSATING INTO YOUR LIFELESS BEING?
I IMPLORE YOU...I COMMAND YOU...TAKE...AND BE FREE OF THE BONDS OF SIMPLE MATTER!

MUHAMMED BE PRAISED!
IT IS ENDED! THE FINAL TEST IS COMPLETED...AND MY BATTLE IS WON!
I HAVE MASTERED THE POWER...OF MIND OVER MATTER! AND NOW, AT LONG LAST...VENGEANCE WILL BE MINE!

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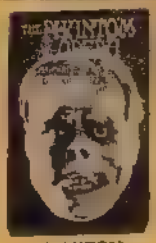
CREATURE: 1104



PHANTOM: 1105

FRANKENSTEIN: 1106

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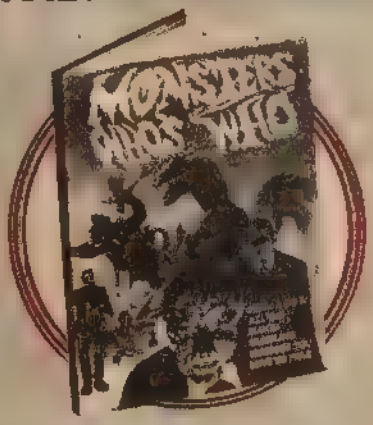

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BARBARELLA lives in this exclusive collector's item classic album. Features original music from the film. Only **$12.50 + $1.00** postage. Specify **#802**

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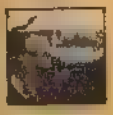

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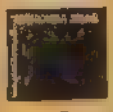

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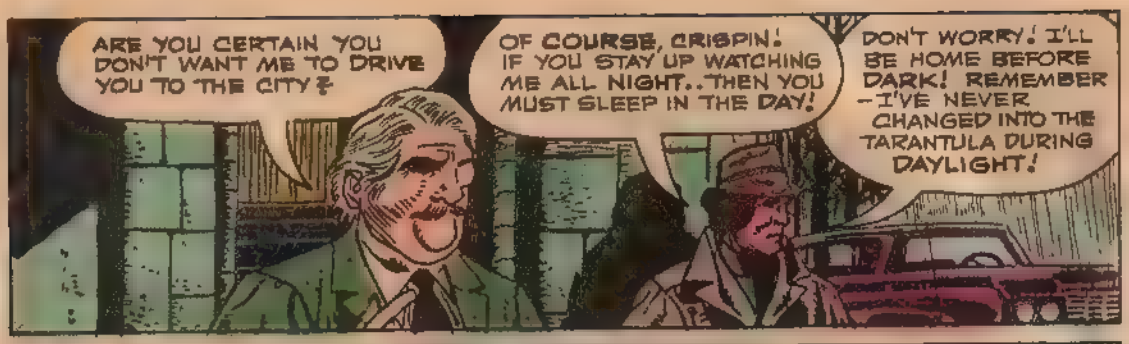
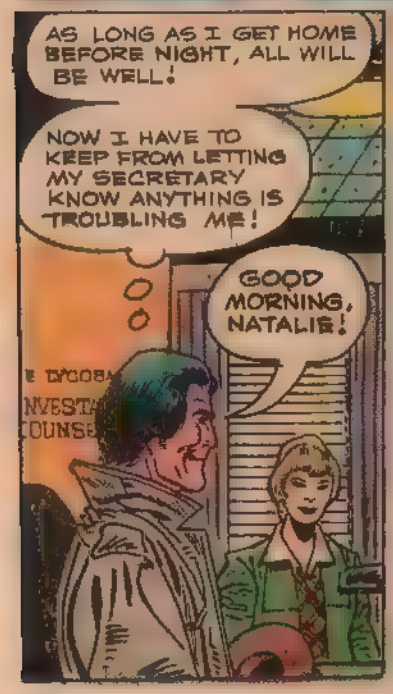
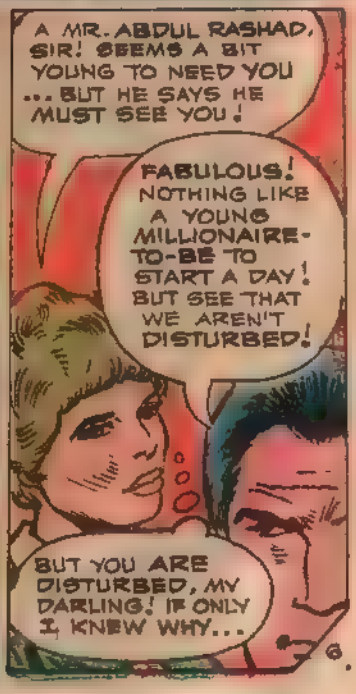

ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU DON'T WANT ME TO DRIVE YOU TO THE CITY?
OF COURSE, CRISPIN! IF YOU STAY UP WATCHING ME ALL NIGHT..THEN YOU MUST SLEEP IN THE DAY!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL BE HOME BEFORE DARK! REMEMBER –I'VE NEVER CHANGED INTO THE TARANTULA DURING DAYLIGHT!

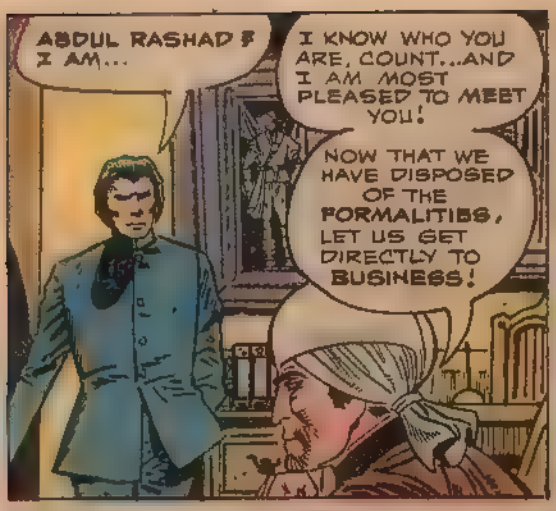
I KNOW THAT..BUT WE KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT THE CURSE!
WHAT IF YOU DID CHANGE BEFORE DARK?
BUT THE MASTER'S RIGHT! I MUST SLEEP SOMETIME... IF I POSSIBLY CAN!

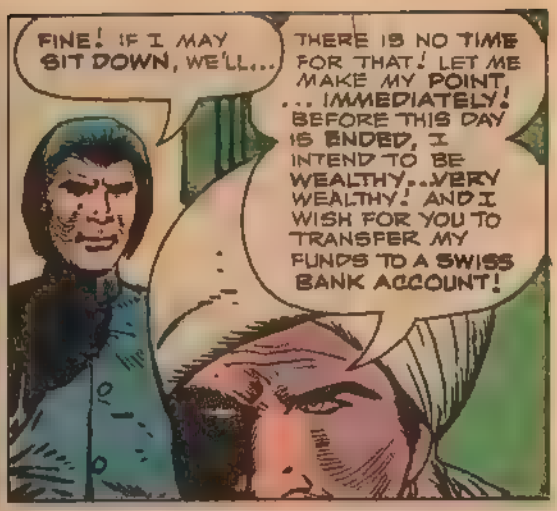
IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE I FIRST EXPERIENCED MY TRANSFORMATION INTO THAT CREATURE FROM HELL...
...AND IN THAT PERIOD.. NEVER ONCE HAS IT HAPPENED DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS!
SO I MUST FORGET IT FOR NOW.. AND CONCENTRATE ON MY BUSINESS!


AS LONG AS I GET HOME BEFORE NIGHT, ALL WILL BE WELL!
NOW I HAVE TO KEEP FROM LETTING MY SECRETARY KNOW ANYTHING IS TROUBLING ME!
GOOD MORNING, NATALIE!

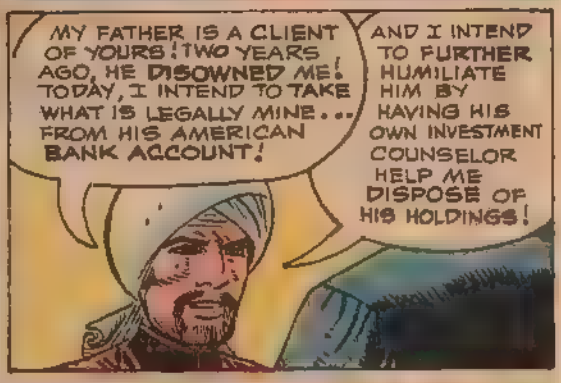
MORNING, MR. LYCOSA! DID YOU HAVE A SAFE TRIP?
IN THIS WEATHER I'D HAVE BEEN SAFER IN A KAMIKAZEE THAN I WAS ON THE EXPRESSWAY!
WITH WHOM IS MY FIRST APPOINTMENT?


A MR. ABDUL RASHAD, SIR! SEEMS A BIT YOUNG TO NEED YOU ...BUT HE SAYS HE MUST SEE YOU!
FABULOUS! NOTHING LIKE A YOUNG MILLIONAIRE-TO-BE TO START A DAY! BUT SEE THAT WE AREN'T DISTURBED!
BUT YOU ARE DISTURBED, MY DARLING! IF ONLY I KNEW WHY...


ABDUL RASHAD I AM...
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, COUNT...AND I AM MOST PLEASED TO MEET YOU!
NOW THAT WE HAVE DISPOSED OF THE FORMALITIES, LET US GET DIRECTLY TO BUSINESS!


FINE! IF I MAY SIT DOWN, WE'LL...
THERE IS NO TIME FOR THAT! LET ME MAKE MY POINT ... IMMEDIATELY! BEFORE THIS DAY IS ENDED, I INTEND TO BE WEALTHY...VERY WEALTHY! AND I WISH FOR YOU TO TRANSFER MY FUNDS TO A SWISS BANK ACCOUNT!

THAT SOUNDS GOOD ... BUT JUST HOW AND WHERE DO YOU INTEND TO ACCUMULATE THIS FORTUNE IN ONE MERE DAY... AND WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN ME TO HANDLE THE MATTER FOR YOU?
SILENCE, FOOL ... IT IS FOR ME TO EXPLAIN... AND FOR YOU TO LISTEN!


MY FATHER IS A CLIENT OF YOURS! TWO YEARS AGO, HE DISOWNED ME! TODAY, I INTEND TO TAKE WHAT IS LEGALLY MINE... FROM HIS AMERICAN BANK ACCOUNT!
AND I INTEND TO FURTHER HUMILIATE HIM BY HAVING HIS OWN INVESTMENT COUNSELOR HELP ME DISPOSE OF HIS HOLDINGS!

YOU MUST BE INSANE! I'VE NO INTENTION..
DO NOT SELL ME SHORT, SIR! I ASSURE YOU I AM FAR FROM MAD!
SIT BACK CALMLY... AND I WILL PROVE THE VALIDITY OF MY CAUSE!

WATCH!
SEE HERE..I HAVEN'T TIME FOR THIS NONSENSE! I HAVE CLIENTS TO SPEAK WITH, AND...

LIVE! LIVE! THE BESTOWER OF YOUR LIFE... COMMAND IT!
THAT'S IT ..YES..YES! NOW.. MY SERVANT.. KILL! I ORDER YOU TO DESTROY THIS DISBELIEVER!

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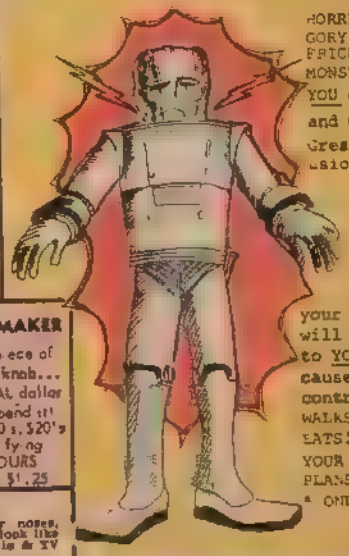

HORRIBLE GORY FRIGHTENING MONSTER—that YOU can own and CONTROL! Greatest illusion!

your friends will listen to YOU because YOU control him! WALKS—TALKS—EATS! Order YOUR MONSTER PLANS today—ONLY $1.00

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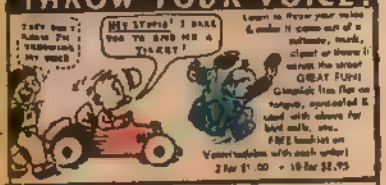
Greatest illusion of the century! Apparently see bones thru skin, lead in pencil thru clothes, etc. FANTASTIC SERIES! Only $1.00 per pair—3 pairs for $2.50

THROW YOUR VOICE!



Learn to throw your voice & make it come out of a suitcase, trunk, closet or where it suits the situation. GREAT FUN! Complete line flips on tongue, specialized [illegible] used with above for bird calls, etc. FREE booklet on Ventriloquism with each order. 3 for $1.00 • 10 for $2.95

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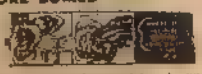

Light one of these and watch all the thick colored smoke pour out! You can really scare your friends because these smoke bombs look just like cherry bombs. Guys—these are really GREAT—so order PLENTY today!
12 bombs for $1.00—72 bombs-$10.95—100 bombs-$14.95

THE MONEY MAKER

Put in a blank piece of paper, turn the knob . . . out comes a REAL dollar bill. You can spend it! Makes $5's, $10's, $20's & more. A mystifying trick! Order YOURS TODAY! Only $1.25

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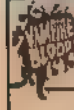

Make your own cuts, bloody noses, scars, wounds & gashes. They look like the REAL thing! Used by movie & TV actors. Non-toxic.
LARGE Tube—Only $1.00

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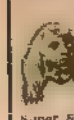

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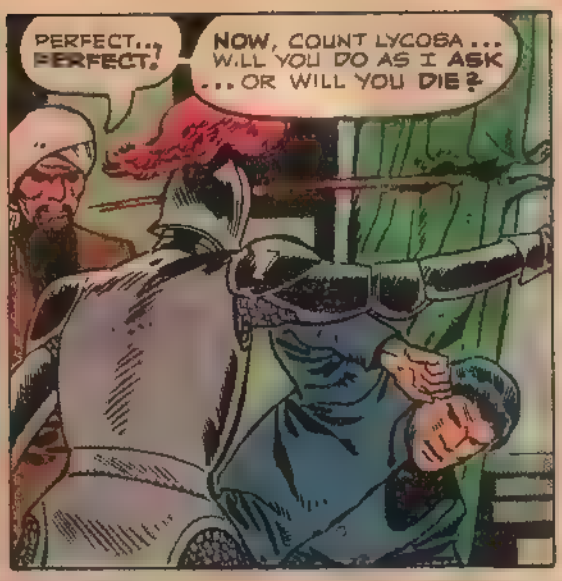
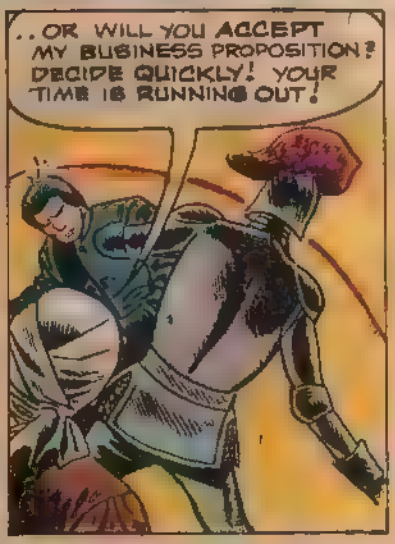
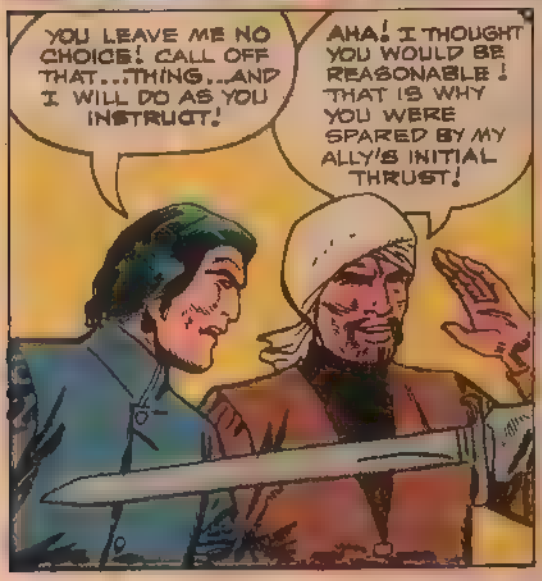
DO AS I COMMAND...AND YOU WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE! DISOBEY ...AND ONCE MORE YOU WILL BECOME LIFELESS MATTER!

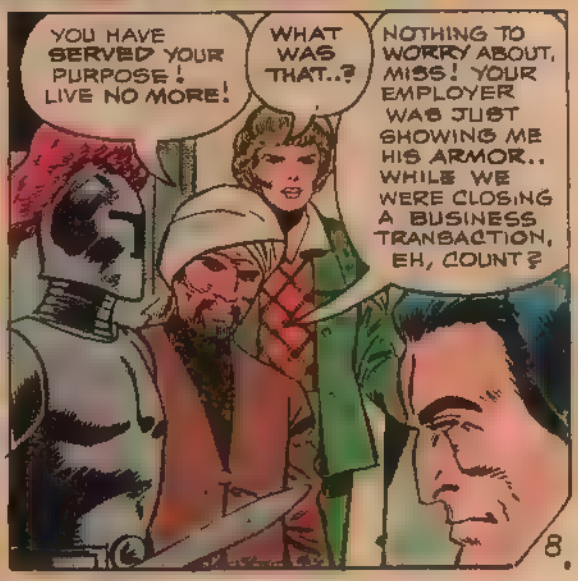

PERFECT... PERFECT!
NOW, COUNT LYCOSA... WILL YOU DO AS I ASK ...OR WILL YOU DIE?

WAIT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TRICK OR MAGIC ...THIS IS... BUT WITH MY LIFE AT STAKE...I AM FAR TOO HUMAN TO REFUSE NEGOTIATION!

THERE IS NO TIME FOR NEGOTIATION! THEREFORE...I FEAR YOU MUST DIE!
SLAY HIM!

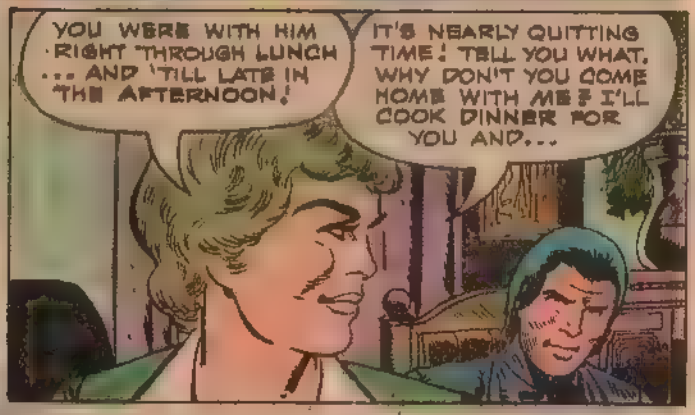

..OR WILL YOU ACCEPT MY BUSINESS PROPOSITION? DECIDE QUICKLY! YOUR TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

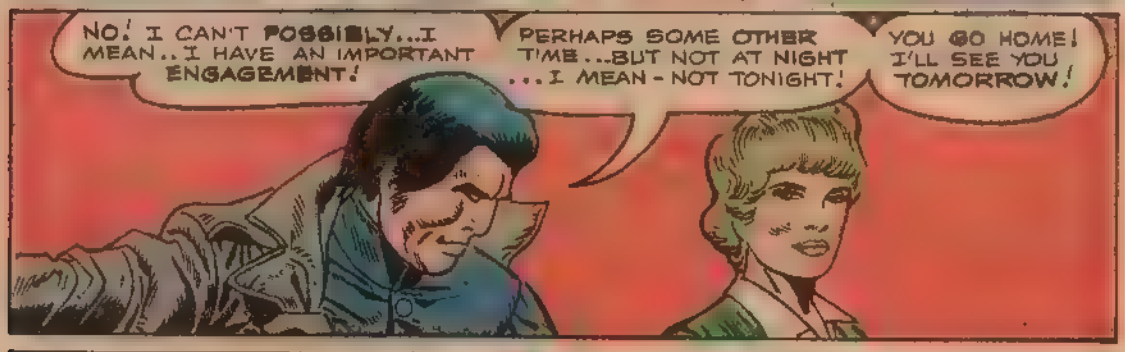

YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE! CALL OFF THAT...THING...AND I WILL DO AS YOU INSTRUCT!
AHA! I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE REASONABLE! THAT IS WHY YOU WERE SPARED BY MY ALLY'S INITIAL THRUST!

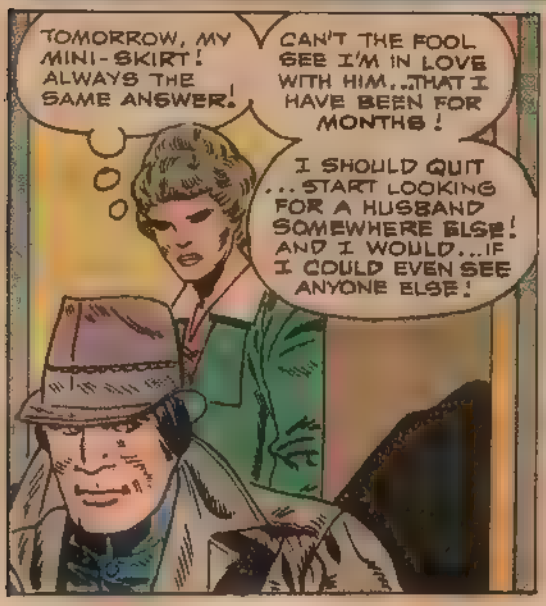

YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE! LIVE NO MORE!
WHAT WAS THAT..?
NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, MISS! YOUR EMPLOYER WAS JUST SHOWING ME HIS ARMOR.. WHILE WE WERE CLOSING A BUSINESS TRANSACTION, EH, COUNT?

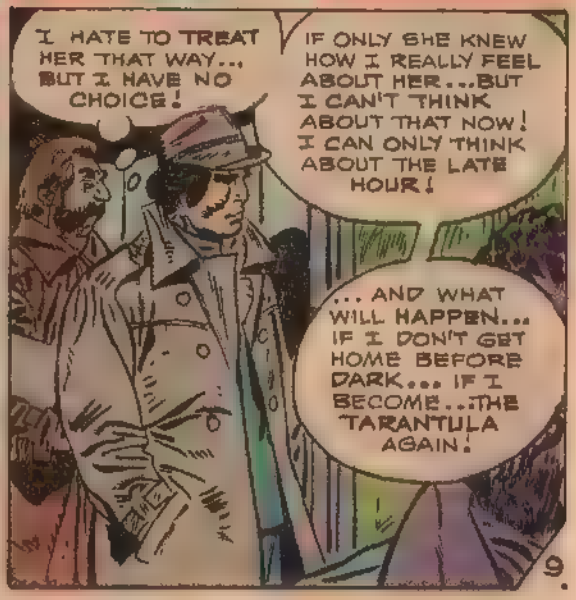
SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, SIR... BUT YOU'VE BEEN ALONE FOR HOURS NOW!
SO I THOUGHT I'D CHECK TO SEE IF YOU NEEDED ANYTHING OR..
WHAT'S WRONG, SIR?

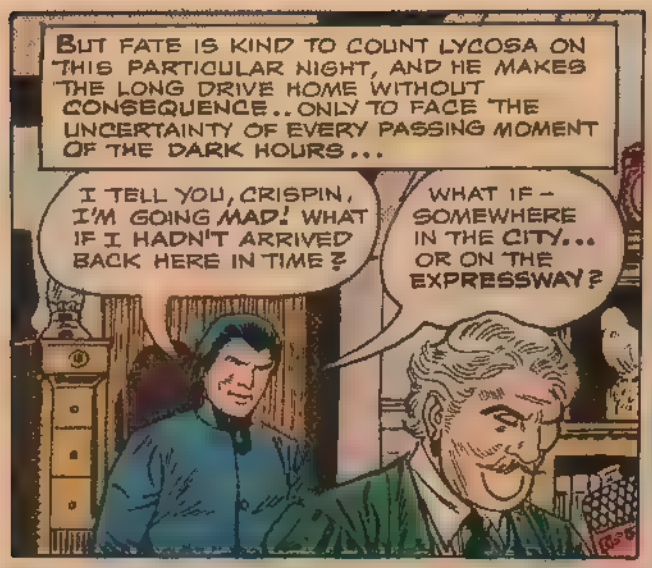
WHAT..? OH, NO... EVERYTHING'S FINE, NATALIE! I'M JUST TERRIBLY TIRED!
WHAT TIME IS IT? SEEMS I'VE PUT IN A WHOLE DAY ALREADY!
YOU HAVE ...AND THEN SOME!

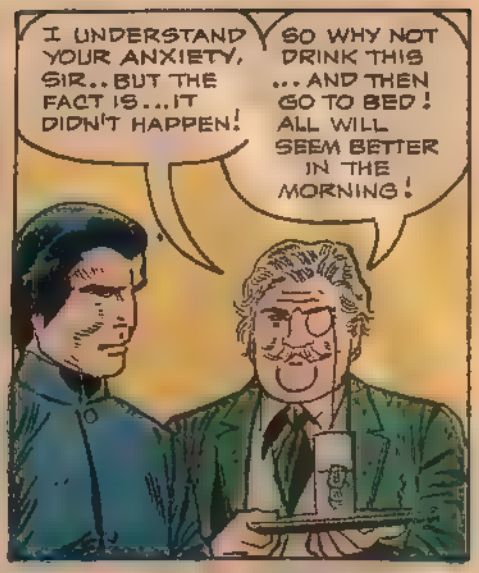

YOU WERE WITH HIM RIGHT THROUGH LUNCH ... AND 'TILL LATE IN THE AFTERNOON!
IT'S NEARLY QUITTING TIME! TELL YOU WHAT, WHY DON'T YOU COME HOME WITH ME? I'LL COOK DINNER FOR YOU AND...

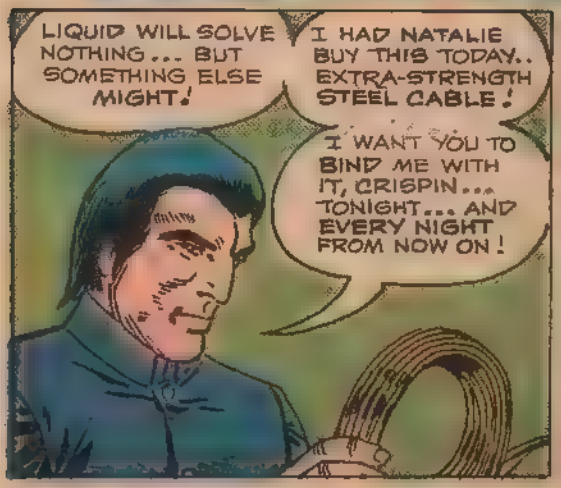

NO! I CAN'T POSSIBLY...I MEAN..I HAVE AN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENT!
PERHAPS SOME OTHER TIME...BUT NOT AT NIGHT ...I MEAN - NOT TONIGHT!
YOU GO HOME! I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW!


TOMORROW, MY MINI-SKIRT! ALWAYS THE SAME ANSWER!
CAN'T THE FOOL SEE I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM..THAT I HAVE BEEN FOR MONTHS!
I SHOULD QUIT ...START LOOKING FOR A HUSBAND SOMEWHERE ELSE! AND I WOULD...IF I COULD EVEN SEE ANYONE ELSE!

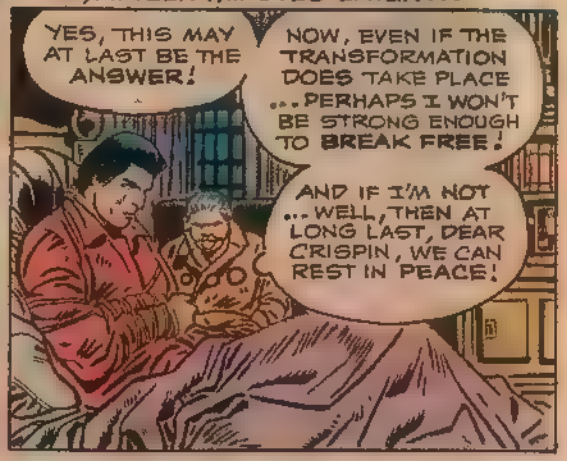

I HATE TO TREAT HER THAT WAY... BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE!
IF ONLY SHE KNEW HOW I REALLY FEEL ABOUT HER...BUT I CAN'T THINK ABOUT THAT NOW! I CAN ONLY THINK ABOUT THE LATE HOUR!
... AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN... IF I DON'T GET HOME BEFORE DARK... IF I BECOME...THE TARANTULA AGAIN!

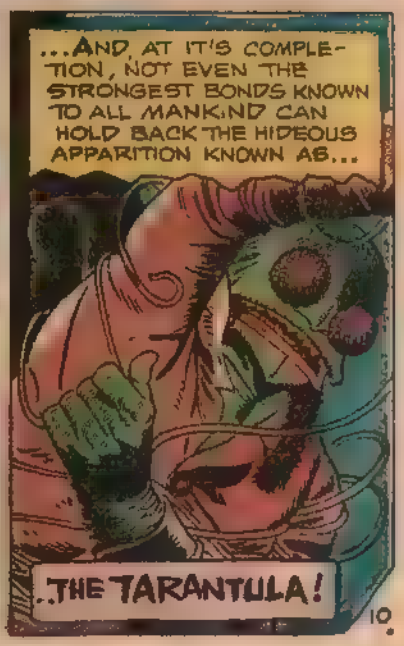


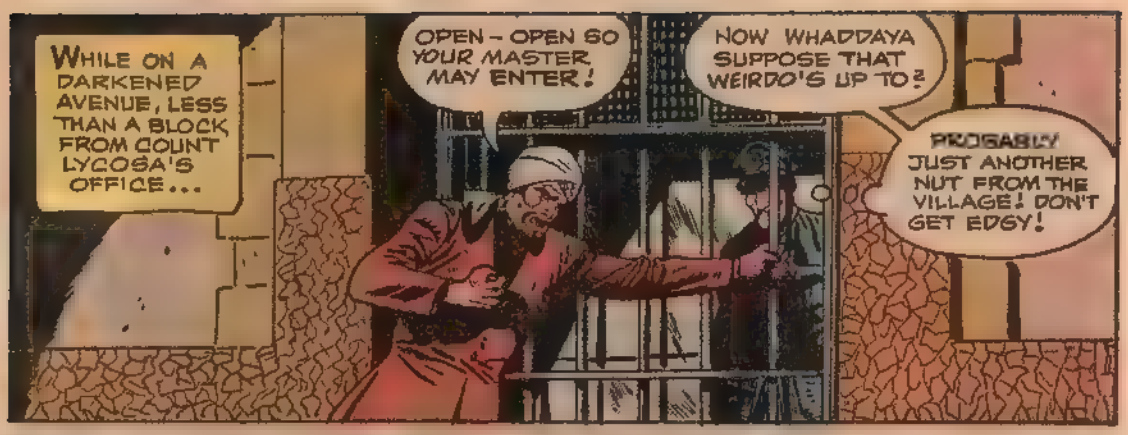




THEN, FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...

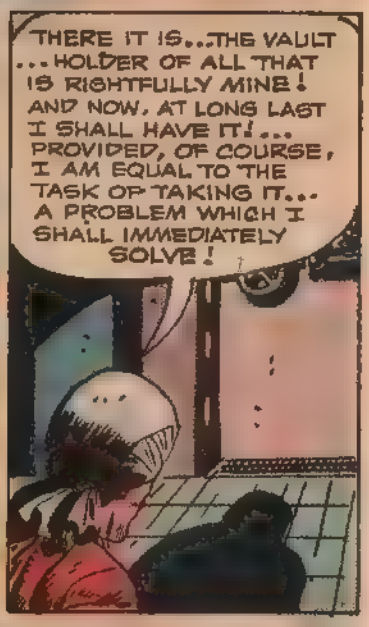


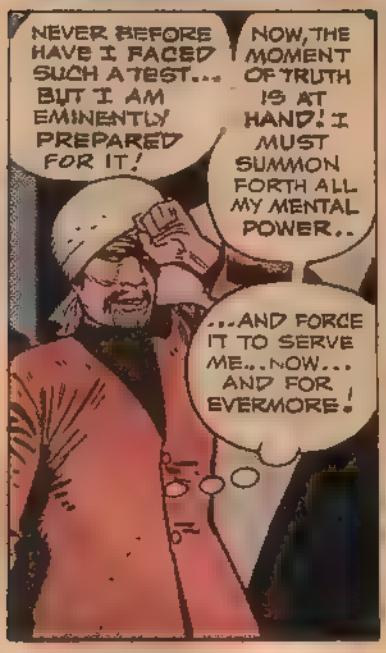


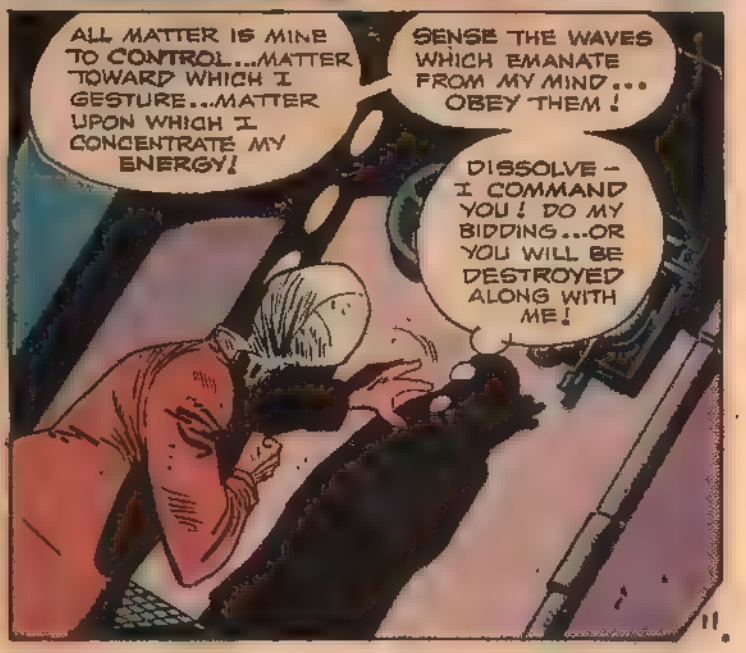

WHILE ON A DARKENED AVENUE, LESS THAN A BLOCK FROM COUNT LYCOSA'S OFFICE...
OPEN – OPEN SO YOUR MASTER MAY ENTER!
NOW WHADDAYA SUPPOSE THAT WEIRDO'S UP TO?
PROBABLY JUST ANOTHER NUT FROM THE VILLAGE! DON'T GET EDGY!

ATTACK! HE IS OUR ENEMY! ATTACK HIM, AND SNUFF OUT HIS WORTHLESS LIFE!
WHA.. ?
AIEEE

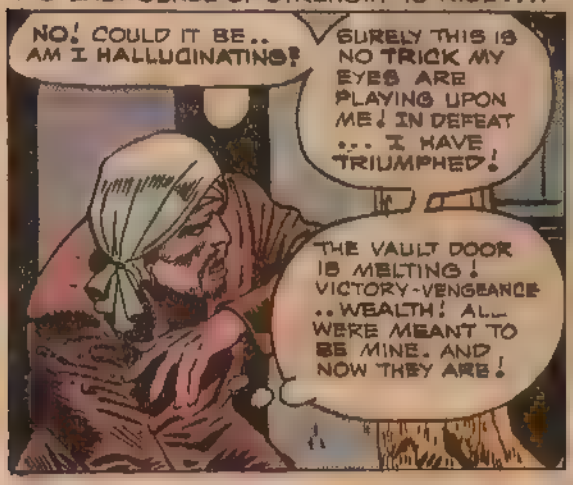
WELL DONE, MY FAITHFUL SERVANTS! FINISH YOUR TASK..THEN RETURN TO YOUR OWN STATE OF LIFELESSNESS! I HAVE NO FURTHER NEED OF YOU!
AGGGH

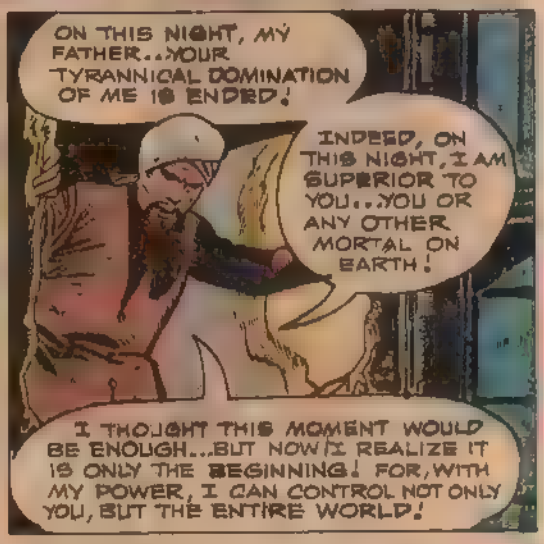

THERE IT IS...THE VAULT ...HOLDER OF ALL THAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE! AND NOW, AT LONG LAST I SHALL HAVE IT!... PROVIDED, OF COURSE, I AM EQUAL TO THE TASK OF TAKING IT... A PROBLEM WHICH I SHALL IMMEDIATELY SOLVE!


NEVER BEFORE HAVE I FACED SUCH A TEST... BUT I AM EMINENTLY PREPARED FOR IT!
NOW, THE MOMENT OF TRUTH IS AT HAND! I MUST SUMMON FORTH ALL MY MENTAL POWER..
...AND FORCE IT TO SERVE ME...NOW... AND FOR EVERMORE!

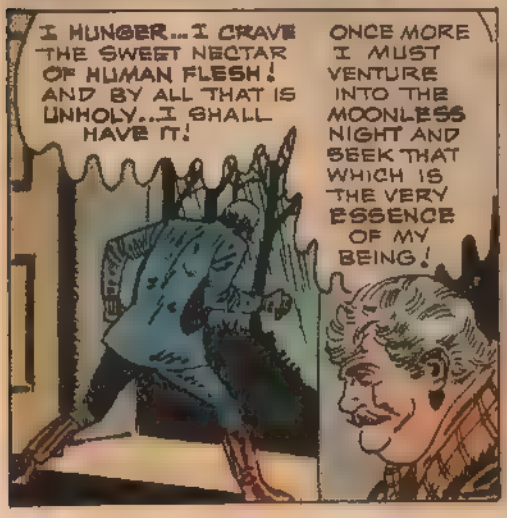

ALL MATTER IS MINE TO CONTROL...MATTER TOWARD WHICH I GESTURE...MATTER UPON WHICH I CONCENTRATE MY ENERGY!
SENSE THE WAVES WHICH EMANATE FROM MY MIND... OBEY THEM!
DISSOLVE – I COMMAND YOU! DO MY BIDDING...OR YOU WILL BE DESTROYED ALONG WITH ME!

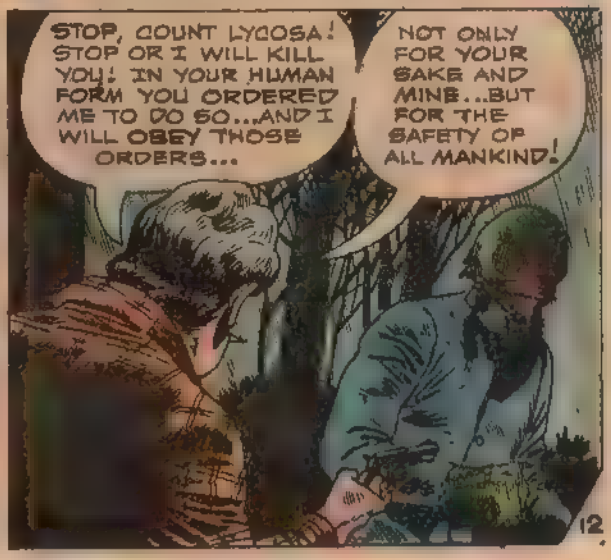
STILL MORE SECONDS PASS INTO MINUTES! WHEN THE YOUNG ARAB FINALLY MUSTERS HIS LAST OUNCE OF STRENGTH TO RISE....

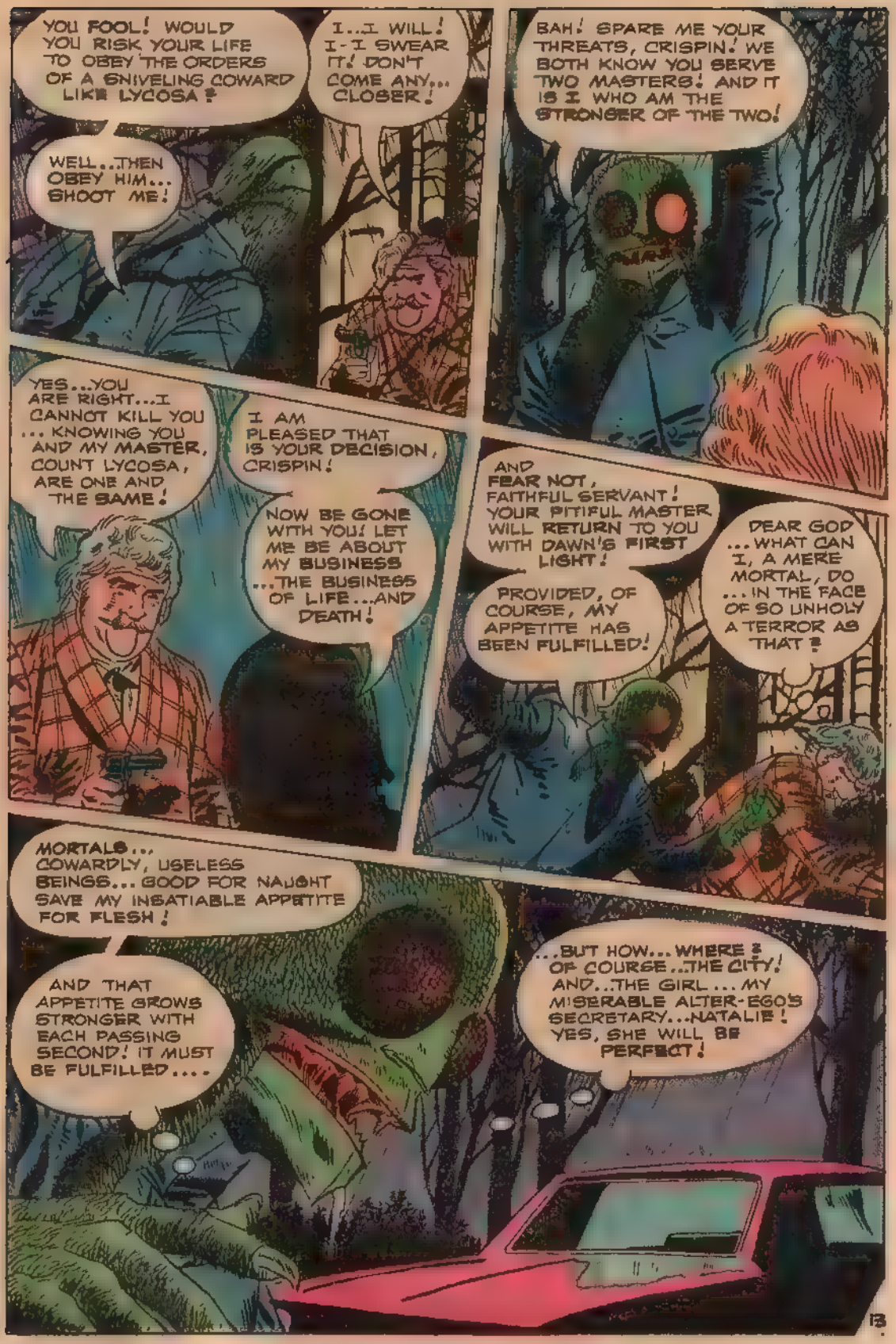




BUT NOW, IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN WHO THE STAR OF THIS MAG IS....






YOU FOOL! WOULD YOU RISK YOUR LIFE TO OBEY THE ORDERS OF A SNIVELING COWARD LIKE LYCOSA?
I..I WILL! I-I SWEAR IT! DON'T COME ANY... CLOSER!
WELL..THEN OBEY HIM... SHOOT ME!
BAH! SPARE ME YOUR THREATS, CRISPIN! WE BOTH KNOW YOU SERVE TWO MASTERS! AND IT IS I WHO AM THE STRONGER OF THE TWO!
YES...YOU ARE RIGHT...I CANNOT KILL YOU ... KNOWING YOU AND MY MASTER, COUNT LYCOSA, ARE ONE AND THE SAME!
I AM PLEASED THAT IS YOUR DECISION, CRISPIN!
NOW BE GONE WITH YOU! LET ME BE ABOUT MY BUSINESS ...THE BUSINESS OF LIFE...AND DEATH!
AND FEAR NOT, FAITHFUL SERVANT! YOUR PITIFUL MASTER WILL RETURN TO YOU WITH DAWN'S FIRST LIGHT!
PROVIDED, OF COURSE, MY APPETITE HAS BEEN FULFILLED!
DEAR GOD ...WHAT CAN I, A MERE MORTAL, DO ...IN THE FACE OF SO UNHOLY A TERROR AS THAT?
MORTALS... COWARDLY, USELESS BEINGS... GOOD FOR NAUGHT SAVE MY INSATIABLE APPETITE FOR FLESH!
AND THAT APPETITE GROWS STRONGER WITH EACH PASSING SECOND! IT MUST BE FULFILLED....
...BUT HOW... WHERE? OF COURSE...THE CITY! AND...THE GIRL... MY MISERABLE ALTER-EGO'S SECRETARY...NATALIE! YES, SHE WILL BE PERFECT!

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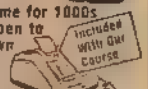

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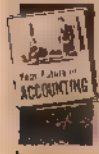

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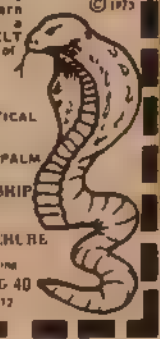

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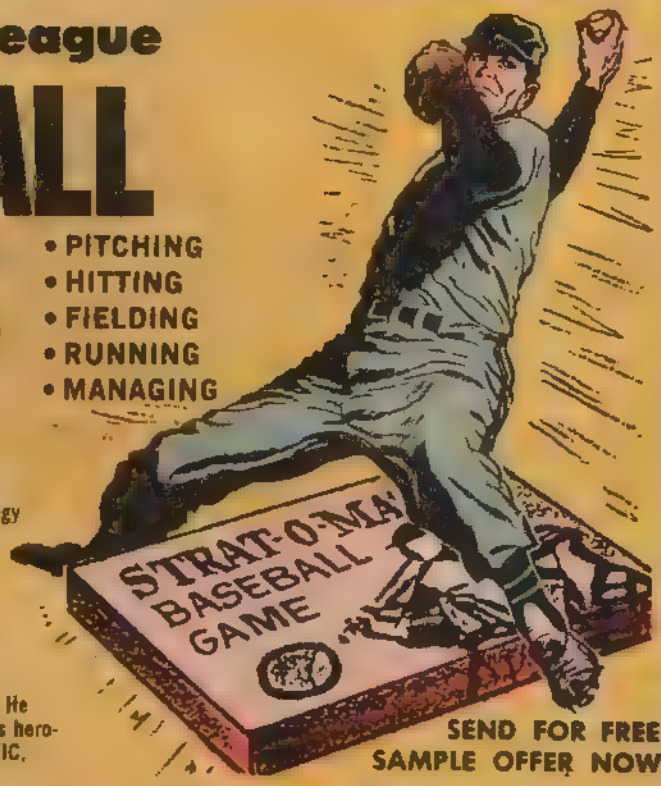

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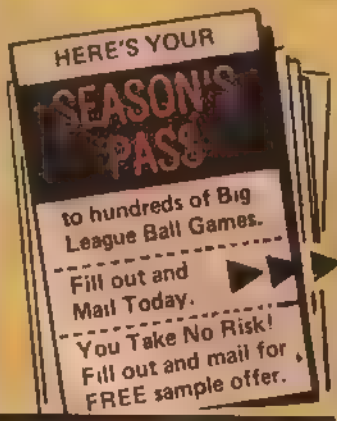

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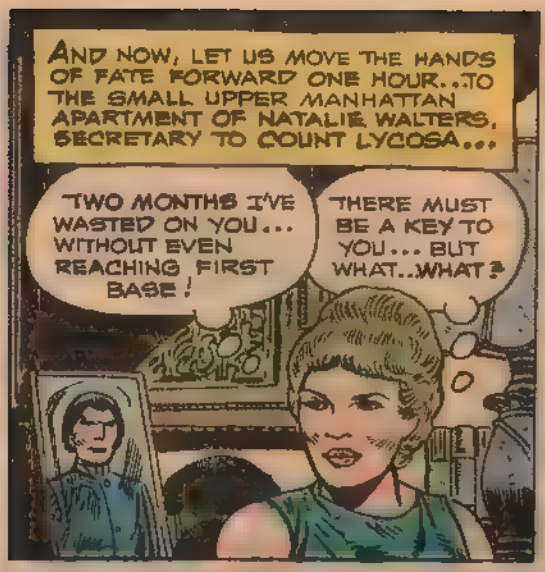
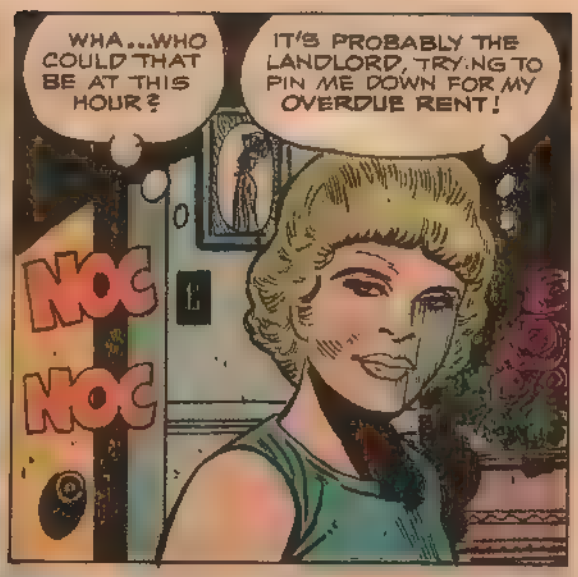
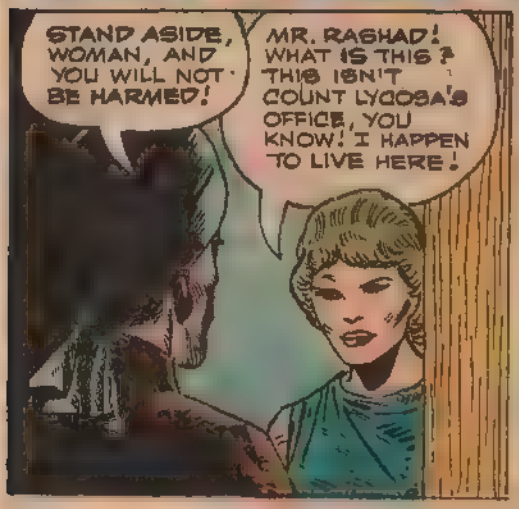
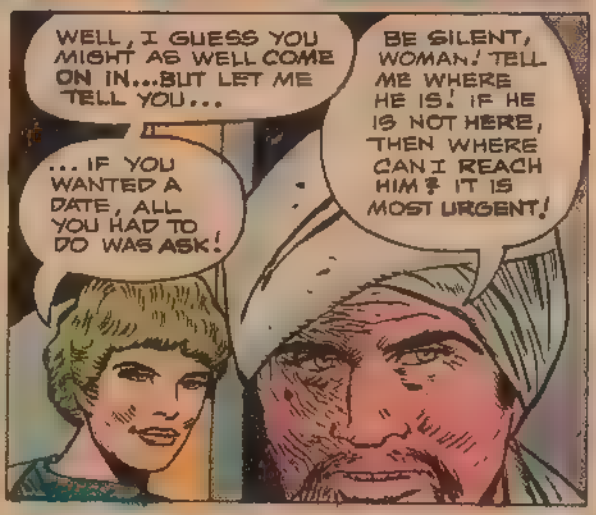
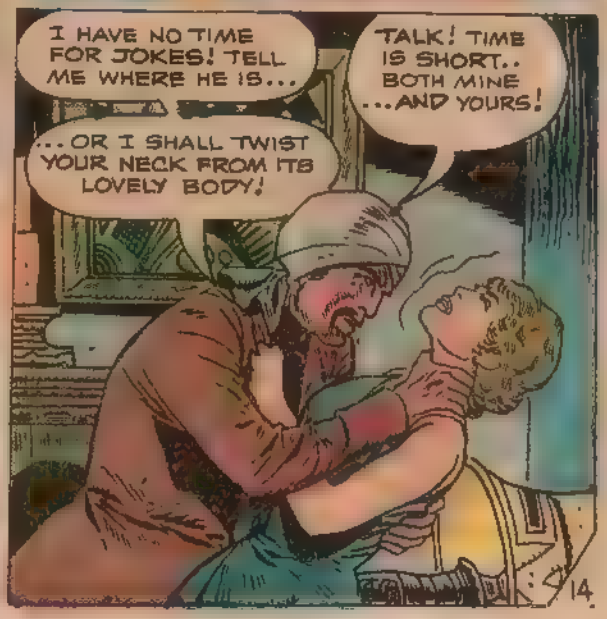

AND NOW, LET US MOVE THE HANDS OF FATE FORWARD ONE HOUR..TO THE SMALL UPPER MANHATTAN APARTMENT OF NATALIE WALTERS, SECRETARY TO COUNT LYCOSA...
TWO MONTHS I'VE WASTED ON YOU... WITHOUT EVEN REACHING FIRST BASE!
THERE MUST BE A KEY TO YOU... BUT WHAT..WHAT?

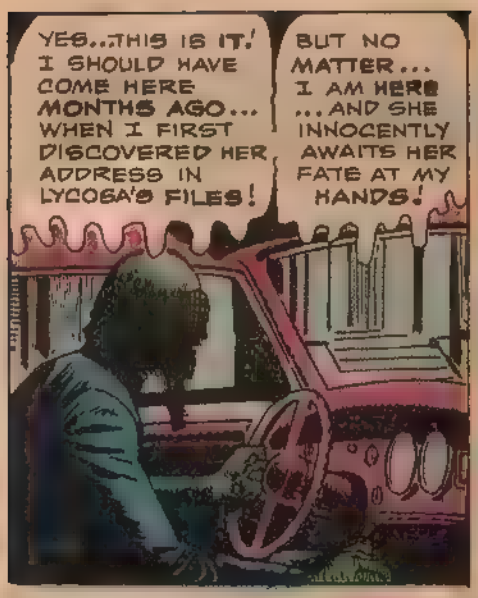

WHA...WHO COULD THAT BE AT THIS HOUR?
IT'S PROBABLY THE LANDLORD, TRYING TO PIN ME DOWN FOR MY OVERDUE RENT!
NOC
NOC

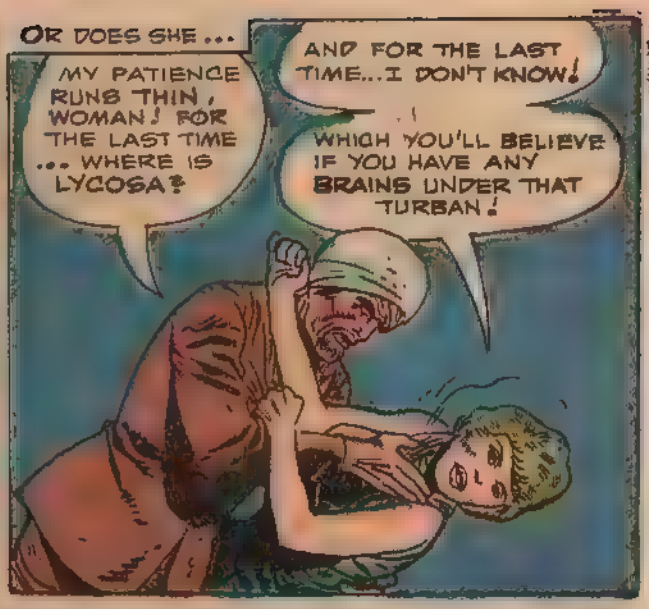

STAND ASIDE, WOMAN, AND YOU WILL NOT BE HARMED!
MR. RASHAD! WHAT IS THIS? THIS ISN'T COUNT LYCOSA'S OFFICE, YOU KNOW! I HAPPEN TO LIVE HERE!


WELL, I GUESS YOU MIGHT AS WELL COME ON IN...BUT LET ME TELL YOU...
... IF YOU WANTED A DATE, ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS ASK!
BE SILENT, WOMAN! TELL ME WHERE HE IS! IF HE IS NOT HERE, THEN WHERE CAN I REACH HIM? IT IS MOST URGENT!

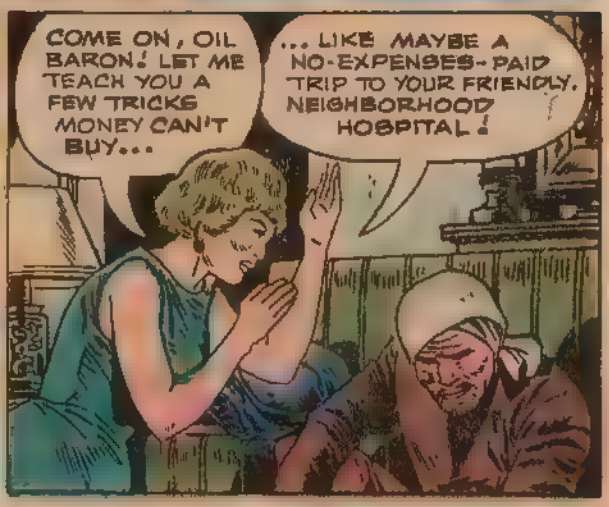
IF YOU MEAN THE COUNT, THIS IS THE LAST PLACE YOU'D EVER FIND HIM..UNFORTUNATELY FOR ME!
HE'S VERY SECRETIVE ...WON'T EVEN GIVE ME HIS HOME PHONE NUMBER!


I HAVE NO TIME FOR JOKES! TELL ME WHERE HE IS...
... OR I SHALL TWIST YOUR NECK FROM ITS LOVELY BODY!
TALK! TIME IS SHORT.. BOTH MINE ...AND YOURS!

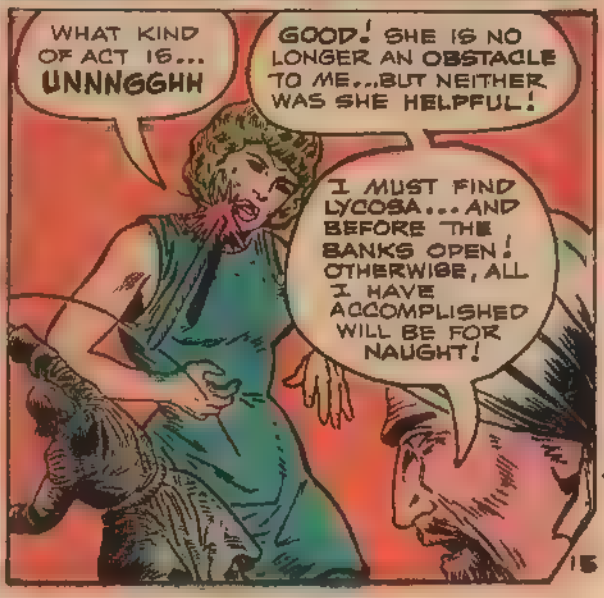

YES...THIS IS IT! I SHOULD HAVE COME HERE MONTHS AGO... WHEN I FIRST DISCOVERED HER ADDRESS IN LYCOSA'S FILES!
BUT NO MATTER... I AM HERE ...AND SHE INNOCENTLY AWAITS HER FATE AT MY HANDS!


OR DOES SHE...
MY PATIENCE RUNS THIN, WOMAN! FOR THE LAST TIME ... WHERE IS LYCOSA?
AND FOR THE LAST TIME...I DON'T KNOW!
WHICH YOU'LL BELIEVE IF YOU HAVE ANY BRAINS UNDER THAT TURBAN!

NOT BUYING, HUH? OKAY, SWAMI! HERE'S WHERE MY KARATE LESSONS PAY OFF!


COME ON, OIL BARON! LET ME TEACH YOU A FEW TRICKS MONEY CAN'T BUY...
... LIKE MAYBE A NO-EXPENSES-PAID TRIP TO YOUR FRIENDLY, NEIGHBORHOOD HOSPITAL!

I UNDERESTIMATED YOU... A COSTLY MISTAKE ON MY PART!
BUT NOT ONE SO SERIOUS IT CANNOT BE REMEDIED!
WOODEN STATUE... OBEY MY COMMANDS! ATTACK THE GIRL!


WHAT KIND OF ACT IS... UNNNGGHH
GOOD! SHE IS NO LONGER AN OBSTACLE TO ME...BUT NEITHER WAS SHE HELPFUL!
I MUST FIND LYCOSA... AND BEFORE THE BANKS OPEN! OTHERWISE, ALL I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED WILL BE FOR NAUGHT!

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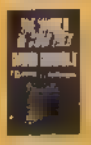

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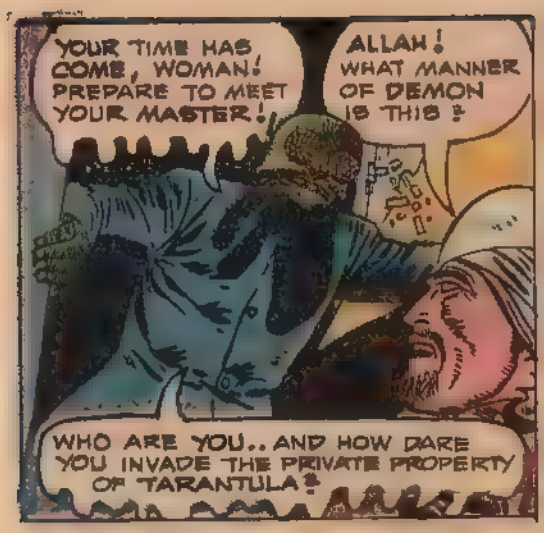
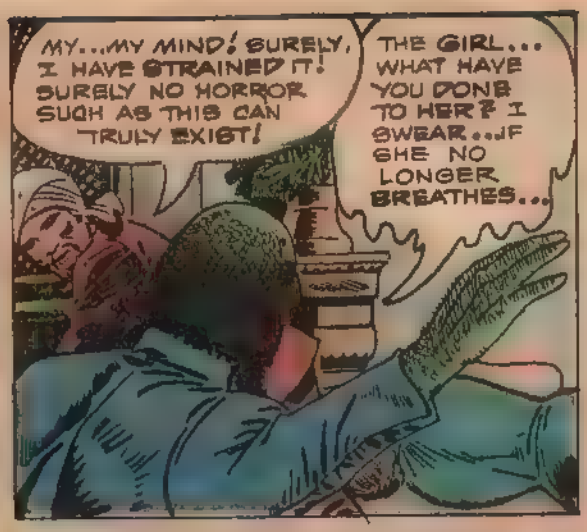
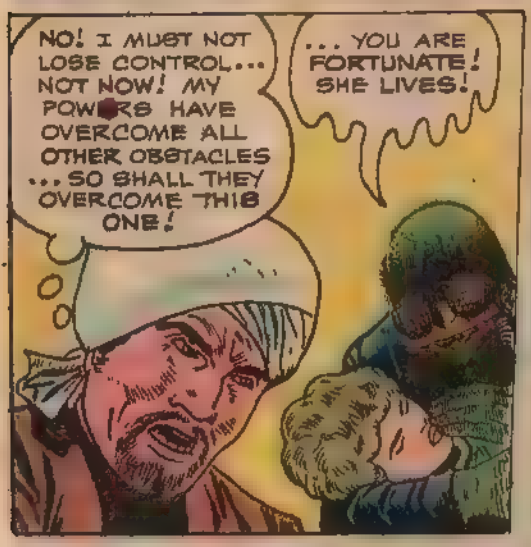
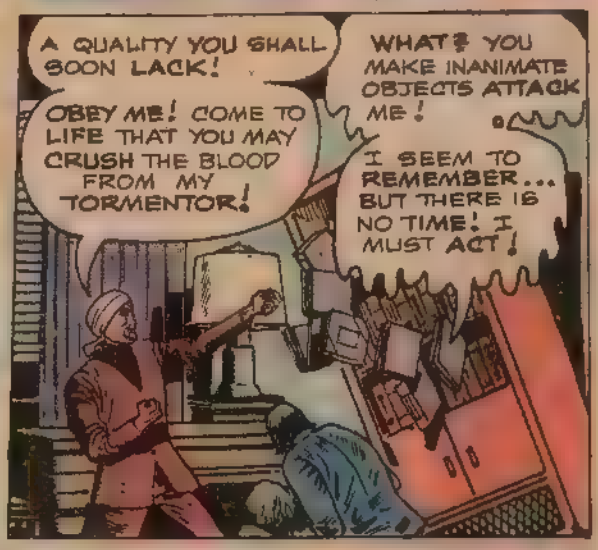
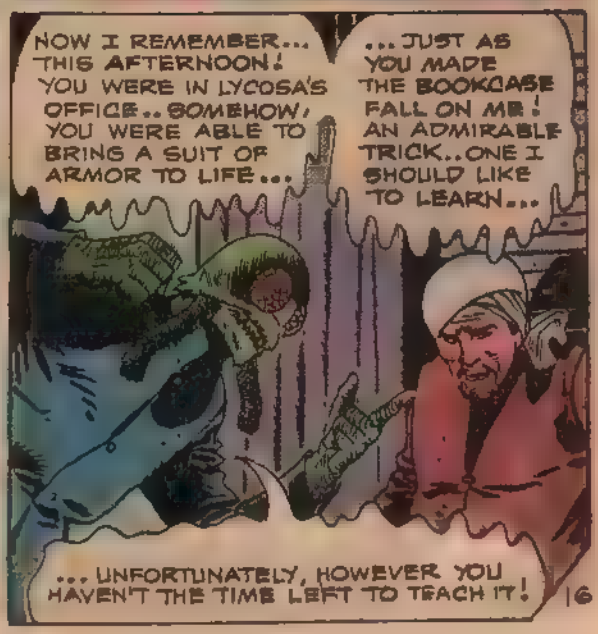

YOUR TIME HAS COME, WOMAN! PREPARE TO MEET YOUR MASTER!
ALLAH! WHAT MANNER OF DEMON IS THIS?
WHO ARE YOU.. AND HOW DARE YOU INVADE THE PRIVATE PROPERTY OF TARANTULA?


MY...MY MIND! SURELY, I HAVE STRAINED IT! SURELY NO HORROR SUCH AS THIS CAN TRULY EXIST!
THE GIRL... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HER? I SWEAR...IF SHE NO LONGER BREATHES...


NO! I MUST NOT LOSE CONTROL... NOT NOW! MY POWERS HAVE OVERCOME ALL OTHER OBSTACLES ...SO SHALL THEY OVERCOME THIS ONE!
... YOU ARE FORTUNATE! SHE LIVES!


A QUALITY YOU SHALL SOON LACK!
OBEY ME! COME TO LIFE THAT YOU MAY CRUSH THE BLOOD FROM MY TORMENTOR!
WHAT? YOU MAKE INANIMATE OBJECTS ATTACK ME!
I SEEM TO REMEMBER... BUT THERE IS NO TIME! I MUST ACT!

THERE! SURELY YOU DID NOT HOPE TO DEFEAT ME WITH MERE SPLINTERS!


NOW I REMEMBER... THIS AFTERNOON! YOU WERE IN LYCOSA'S OFFICE..SOMEHOW, YOU WERE ABLE TO BRING A SUIT OF ARMOR TO LIFE...
...JUST AS YOU MADE THE BOOKCASE FALL ON ME! AN ADMIRABLE TRICK..ONE I SHOULD LIKE TO LEARN...
... UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER YOU HAVEN'T THE TIME LEFT TO TEACH IT!

DO NOT BE SO CERTAIN, DEMON FROM HELL! IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN!
ARISE, CRAVEN IMAGE... MOVE ...LIVE! DEFEAT OUR COMMON ENEMY!
...WHILE I MAKE GOOD MY ESCAPE!

THE STATUE... IT BREATHES ...EVEN AS WE DO!
INDEED! AND WHILE IT [redacted] YOU, I SHALL SAY FAREWELL AND PRAY YOU ARE NO MORE THAN A FIGMENT OF MY EXHAUSTED BRAIN!
IT IS ALIVE, AND WITH THE STRENGTH OF TEN MEN... SQUEEZING THE VERY LIFE'S BREATH FROM MY BODY!
I KNOW NOT WHAT MANNER OF MADNESS CONFRONTS ME! ONLY THAT IN A PHYSICAL SENSE...
IT DWARFS ANY FOE I HAVE EVER FACED...AN ADVERSARY PERHAPS TOO GREAT TO BE OVERCOME...
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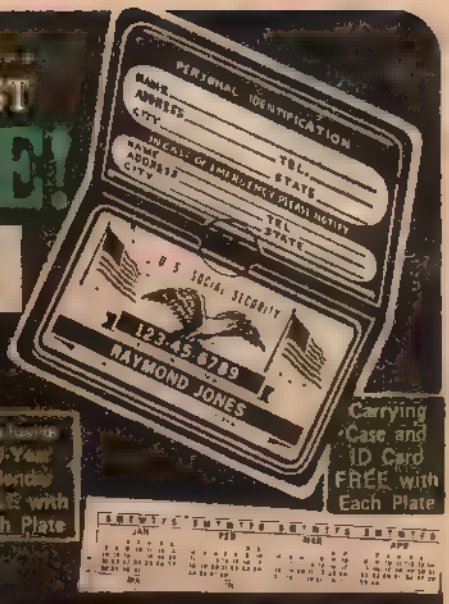

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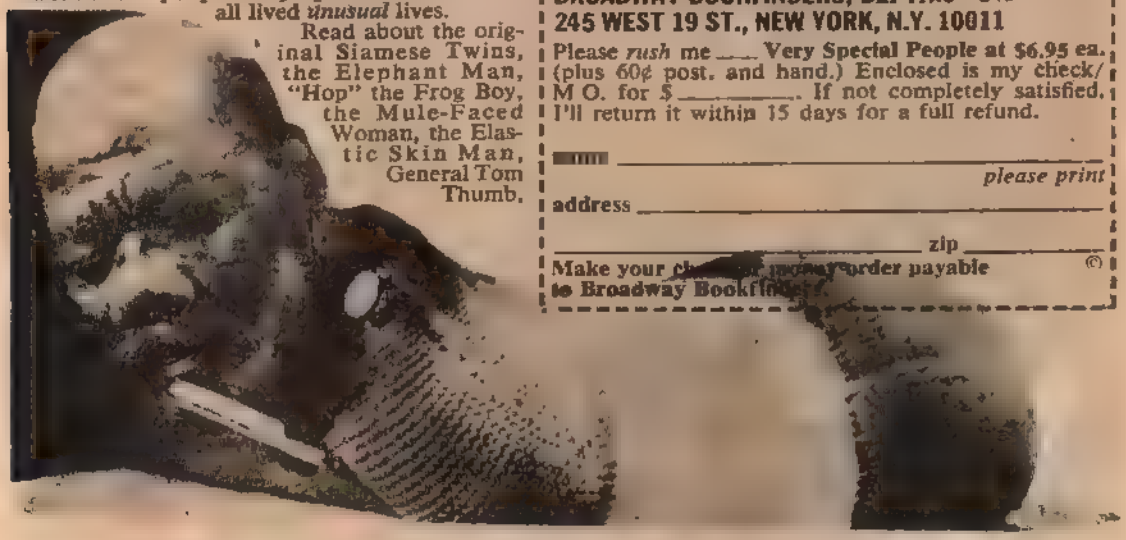

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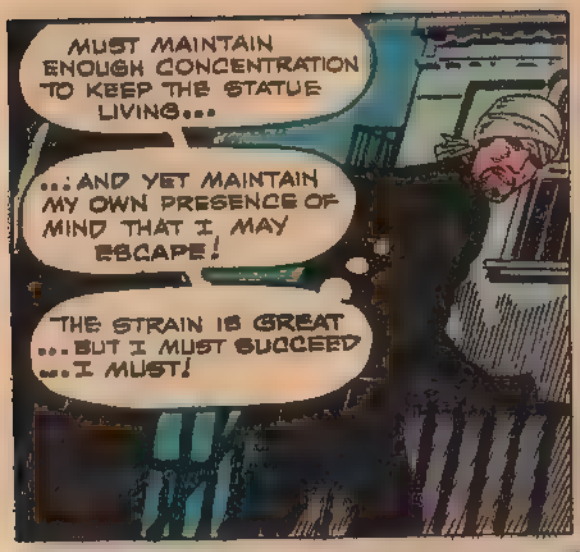
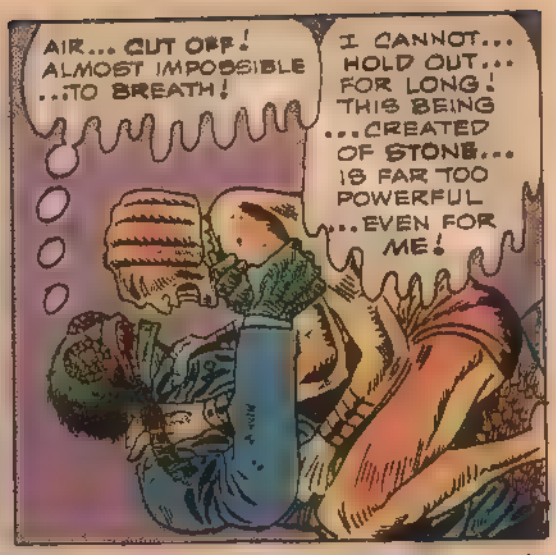
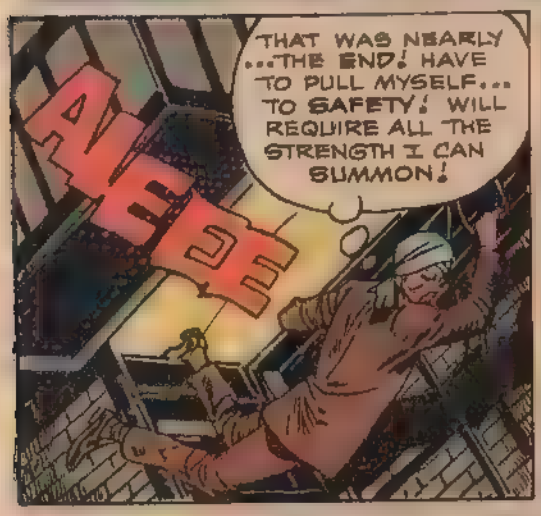
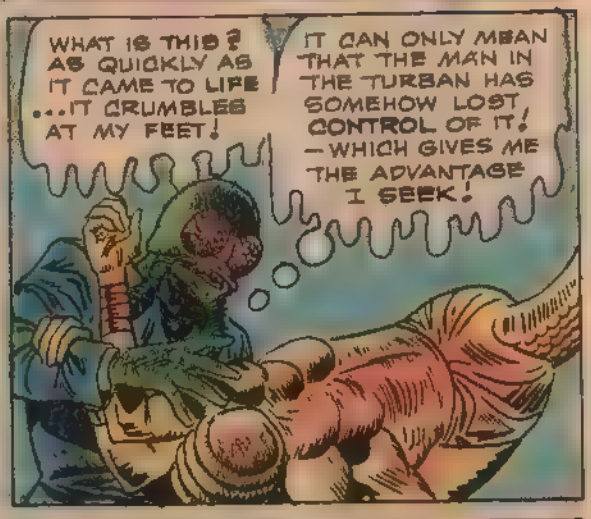
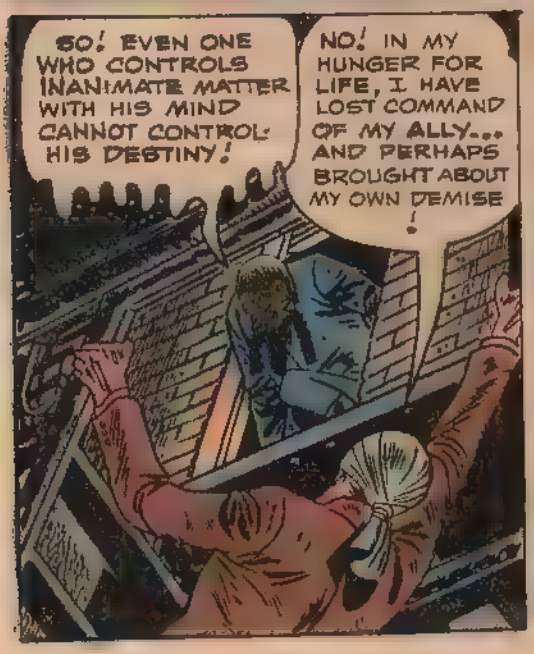
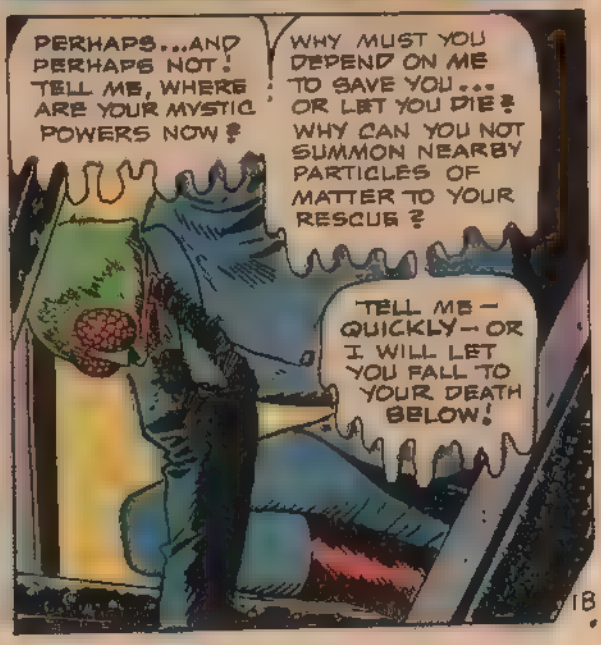

MUST MAINTAIN ENOUGH CONCENTRATION TO KEEP THE STATUE LIVING...
...AND YET MAINTAIN MY OWN PRESENCE OF MIND THAT I MAY ESCAPE!
THE STRAIN IS GREAT ...BUT I MUST SUCCEED ...I MUST!


AIR... CUT OFF! ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE ...TO BREATH!
I CANNOT... HOLD OUT... FOR LONG! THIS BEING ...CREATED OF STONE... IS FAR TOO POWERFUL ...EVEN FOR ME!


AIEEE
THAT WAS NEARLY ...THE END! HAVE TO PULL MYSELF... TO SAFETY! WILL REQUIRE ALL THE STRENGTH I CAN SUMMON!


WHAT IS THIS? AS QUICKLY AS IT CAME TO LIFE ...IT CRUMBLES AT MY FEET!
IT CAN ONLY MEAN THAT THE MAN IN THE TURBAN HAS SOMEHOW LOST CONTROL OF IT! —WHICH GIVES ME THE ADVANTAGE I SEEK!


SO! EVEN ONE WHO CONTROLS INANIMATE MATTER WITH HIS MIND CANNOT CONTROL HIS DESTINY!
NO! IN MY HUNGER FOR LIFE, I HAVE LOST COMMAND OF MY ALLY... AND PERHAPS BROUGHT ABOUT MY OWN DEMISE!


PERHAPS...AND PERHAPS NOT! TELL ME, WHERE ARE YOUR MYSTIC POWERS NOW?
WHY MUST YOU DEPEND ON ME TO SAVE YOU... OR LET YOU DIE? WHY CAN YOU NOT SUMMON NEARBY PARTICLES OF MATTER TO YOUR RESCUE?
TELL ME — QUICKLY — OR I WILL LET YOU FALL TO YOUR DEATH BELOW!

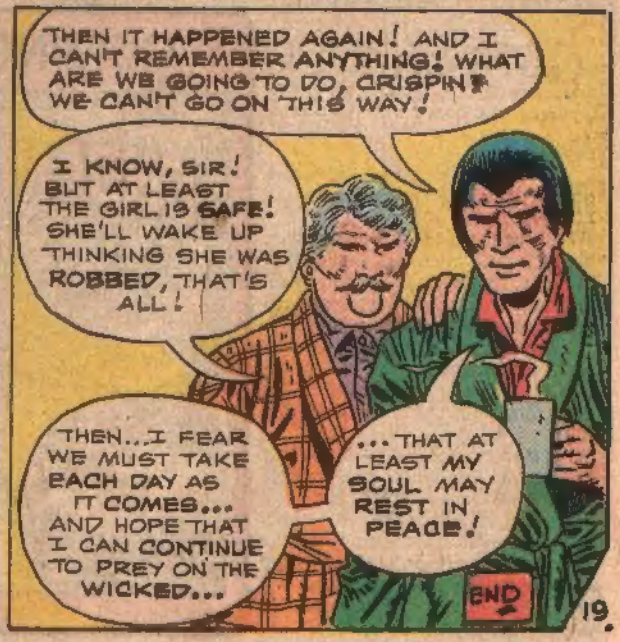
IF YOU WILL BUT SPARE ME... I PROMISE I WILL TELL YOU MY SECRET... WHEN I HAVE RECOVERED!
RECOVERED... NO...YOU WILL NOT RECOVER! I HAVE NO REAL NEED OF YOUR SECRET! MY ONLY NEED IS FOR YOUR... FLESH!

NOOOOO

IT IS FINISHED! ONCE MORE THE ESSENCE OF MY POWER...MY VERY BEING...HAS BEEN FULFILLED!
NOW TO RETURN TO THE PEACEFUL CONFINES OF MY HOME...TO ONCE MORE HAND MY BODY TO COUNT LYCOSA!
IF ONLY I COULD...NO ...THE SUN ...IT'S STARTING TO RISE!

I'VE WAITED TOO LONG! I'M STARTING TO CHANGE!
BUT I CAN'T...I CAN'T...NOT BEFORE I'VE REACHED HOME!
THE GIRL...SHE MAY DISCOVER MY SECRET!

THREE HOURS LATER...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, SIR! EVERYTHING HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF!
YOUR SECRET IS STILL SAFE! AFTER YOU LEFT, AS YOUR OTHER SELF, I FOLLOWED...
...AND WAS ABLE TO SPIRIT YOU FROM THE GIRL'S APARTMENT BEFORE SHE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS!


THEN IT HAPPENED AGAIN! AND I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, CRISPIN? WE CAN'T GO ON THIS WAY!
I KNOW, SIR! BUT AT LEAST THE GIRL IS SAFE! SHE'LL WAKE UP THINKING SHE WAS ROBBED, THAT'S ALL!
THEN...I FEAR WE MUST TAKE EACH DAY AS IT COMES... AND HOPE THAT I CAN CONTINUE TO PREY ON THE WICKED...
...THAT AT LEAST MY SOUL MAY REST IN PEACE!
END

MAIL WEB

SEND ALL LETTERS TO ATLAS COMICS C/O SEABOARD PERIODICALS, 717 5TH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Dear *Larry*:

I had never liked *Pat Boyette's* artwork—until I read issue #1 of **WEIRD SUSPENSE**. I cannot understand how just one issue could make such a lasting impression on me. Somehow, it captured the very essence of "*The Curse of the Tarantula*"—synthesizing gothic atmosphere and modern super-hero antics.

Pat's panel layouts were very clean, concise and totally effective. Each panel blends perfectly with the next, providing for a smooth visual flow. And I love the way the *Tarantula's* word balloons have spider legs on them. Obviously, *Pat Boyette's* visual effects play a large role in the success of the book. And to me, it is a success.

Mike Fleisher wrote this one, too? Well, the story wasn't particularly heavy on action, but frequently origins aren't. I'd prefer that the writer take the time to credibly establish any essential background information. After all, future issues can concentrate on action.

Count Lycosa and his prim man servant *Joseph* handled the escaped convicts with chilling efficiency. But I don't think *The Tarantula* is strong enough, or has enough powers to really put on some great fights. And I think that's what the reader really wants.

SCOTT GIBSON
EVERGREEN, CO.

After you've finished issue #3, Scott, we don't think you'll be complaining about any lack of action. You'll probably be bruised from the abundance.

Dear *Larry*:

You've got a problem. No, you've got lots of them. Some have to do with *Mike Fleisher*.

Mike happens to be a good writer, but he is suffering from a bad case of overload. He's trying to be too prolific. In other words, he's trying to make too much money. His work is suffering.

He's also seen too many bad B-movies. ". . . Those who become easily frightened are cautioned not to read this magazine!" Cut the crap, Mike.

Another problem is one of similar heroes. The *Grim Ghost* and *Tarantula* are both victims of something that's happened centuries ago. Also, both *GG* and *Tarantula* are just evil-looking good guys, whose main purpose in life is punishing hoods, thugs, and cons. If we wanted that stuff, we'd watch old *Superman* reruns on tv.

Now for your biggest problem: Where in heaven do these tarantula creatures come from. Any self-respecting *James Bond* fan can tell you that tarantulas live in warm, tropical climates, and not in some Transylvania-like country in central Europe. How did they get there? How did they grow so huge? Why? When? *Mike Fleisher* wound make a very poor news reporter.

I understand that origins are dull (probably duller to write than to read) but they are necessary. *Superman* came from *Krypton*, and the *Hulk* was bathed in gamma-rays. So where did your hero come from?

Give us some hard facts, huh fellas?

HANS ENID
DAYTON, OH.

We agree fully, Hans.

Therefore, Gary Friedrich has undertaken the task of recounting the origin of the amazing cult of the Tarantula. Look for it in the near future!

Dear Larry:

I just don't know what to say about the Tarantula. It's such a far-out concept. There's no way to tell if he's a villain or a hero.

However, I don't think it's fair for a man trying to do good to be turned into a spider—a very hairy one at that.

CURTIN HOFFMAN
LANSING, MI.

Who knows? Maybe it feels good!

Dear *Larry* **WEIRD SUSPENSE** #1 was excellent. I love that green hairy spider man. But I never knew tarantula's had long green fingernails.

Seriously though, I'm pleased that **ATLAS** is not setting any specific theme to their line of super heroes. What I'm trying to say is that you're scattered your heroes all over. Some are heroic, some anti-heroic. Some are in the future, while others are in the past. I gotta hand it to you—it takes guts!

HENRY SAFDIEH
BROOKLYN, NY

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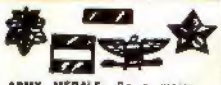

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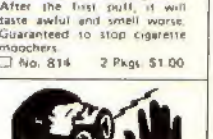

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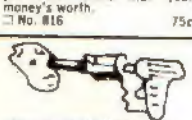


POTATO GUN. Here's a new, fast action gun, that shoots potato pellets as far as 50 ft. with more than 300 shots from a single potato. Absolutely harmless . . . and you never run out of ammo.
☐ No. 753 $1.49

MAGIC SOAP POWDER. Sprinkle a little of this almost invisible magic powder on any soap. When anyone uses the soap their hands and face will turn bloody red. Have fun! Drives them crazy! Harmless!
☐ No. 123 30¢ pkg. 4 pkg's $1.00

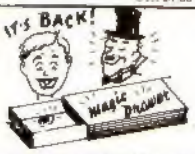
ATOM PISTOL. Fires real blanks with the roar of a full-size gun. Minutely detailed replica of an 18th century dueling pistol. About the size of half-dollar yet barrel opens to load, hammer cocks and fires when trigger is pulled. Ramrod and ammunition included. Makes a great conversation piece that you will be proud to own.
☐ No. 135 $1.98
☐ No. 135A Extra Ammo 75¢

SPY-SCOPE. No larger than a fountain pen, spots objects blocks away. Excellent for all sports, counter-spying, baseball, hikers. Power lenses optically ground to reproduce every detail. 8-power telescope, also converts into a 30-power microscope.
☐ No. 134 $1.49

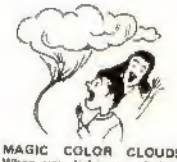
IT'S 10 INSTRUMENTS IN ONE. Every hobbyist, camper, sports fan, hunter, scout will want one. You get all the following in this little (only 3½" when folded) wonder! 1—Reading lens. 2—Compass and microscope. 3—Adjustable telescope. 4—Focusing binoculars. 5—Directional compass. 6—Solar time clock. 7—Flat mirror. 8—Magnifying mirror. 9—Fire lighter. 10—Code transmitter.
☐ No. 776 $1.00

FLESH EATING PLANTS. Most unusual plant in the world. Eats flies, bugs, spiders, etc. Feeds itself by trapping and eating these insects. Jaws will snap shut on anything at your command. Easy to grow with special soil and full instruction included.
☐ No. 760 $1.00

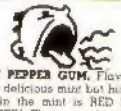
SNEEZING POWDER. Place a little of this powder on your hand, blow into the air, step back and watch the fun begin. Everyone in the room will begin to sneeze without knowing why. More fun than a barrel full of monkeys.
☐ No. 104 25¢ Each 5 for $1.00



MAGIC DRAWER. This new item, will thrill and amaze everyone! Put any object into the drawer and at your command "PRESTO!" it disappears! Only you will know the secret.
☐ No. 819 $1.00



MAGIC COLOR CLOUDS. When you light one of these small grenades, huge, thick clouds of color continue to pour out. Will amaze and thrill you and your friends. Can be used for magic tricks and signaling, etc.
☐ No. 817 4 for $1.00



HOT PEPPER GUM. Flavored with delicious mint but hidden within the mint is RED HOT PEPPER! The more the chew the hotter it gets. Not harmful but a joke they'll remember. Package of 5 sticks.
☐ No. 174 2 pkgs. $1.00

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